Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 /073 W
----------030818Z 034821 /17
O P 021300Z FEB 77 ZFG
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4934
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1178

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0311

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

DEPT PLEASE PASS OAU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, OAU, UK, RH
SUBJ: OAU SECRETARY-GENERAL DENIES OAU PROPOSALS FOR RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT PRESENTED TO RICHARD

REF: LUSAKA 0304

1. WILLIAM ETEKI, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE OAU, HAS DESCRIBED AS MISLEADING FEB 1 PRESS REPORTS THAT HE HAD PRESENTED OAU PROPOSALS ON A ZIMBABWE SETTLEMENT TO BRITISH SPECIAL ENVOY RICHARD (REFTEL).

2. ACCORDING TO THE FEB 2 PRESS, ETEKI SAID THAT RICHARD HAD BRIEFED HIM ON HIS SHUTTLE MISSION IN TTEIR JAN 31 MEETING AND ASKED ETEKI WHAT ASSISTANCE THE OAU COULD PROVIDE TO ENSURE THAT ALL PARTIES ATTENDED A RESUMED GENEVA CONFERENCE. REPORTEDLY RICHARD TOLD ETEKI THAT OAU ENDORSEMENT OF THE
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PATRIOTIC FRONT WOULD POSE A PROBLEM REGARDING RESUMPTION OF THE TALKS. ETEKI SAID HE HAD TOLD RICHARD THAT SMITH'S REJECTION LEFT THE ARMED STRUGGLE AS THE ONLY OPTION FOR THE OAU AND THAT OAU SUPPORT WAS FOR THOSE DOING THE FIGHTING. IN HIS STATEMENT TO REPORTERS, ETEKI SAID HE TOLD RICHARD THE FRONT WAS OPEN TO SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA IF THEY HAD FIGHTING CADRES AND WERE WILLING TO

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CLOSE RANKS. THE OAU COULD NOT TOLERATE A PROLIFERATION
OF LIBERATION GROUPS AND ITS SUPPORT OF THE PATRIOTIC
FRONT SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS SELECTION OF THE FUTURE
LEADERS OF A FREE ZIMBABWE. THIS WOULD BE DONE BY THE
ZIMBABWEANS THEMSELVES.

COMMENT: ETEKI'S EXPANDED VERSION OF HIS EXCHANGE WITH
RICHARD CORRESPONDS MORE CLOSELY WITH WHAT THE EMBASSY
LEARNED FROM OTHER SOURCES (REFTEL). ETEKI'S CORRECTION
MAKES CLEAR THAT HE DID NOT PRESENT A SET OF PROPOSALS,
AS SUCH, TO RICHARD BUT RATHER DELINEATED A CURRENT OAU
VIEW ON BRINGING ABOUT RENEWED NEGOTIATIONS BY INTENSIFYING
THE ARMED STRUGGLE. LOW

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED OAU COLLECTIVE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RECOGNITION, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, NATIONALISTS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 02-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LUSAKA00311
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770038-0792
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LUSAKA 304
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3432266
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OAU SECRETARY-GENERAL DENIES OAU PROPOSALS FOR RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT PRESENTED TO RICHARD
TAGS: PFOR, UK, RH, OAU, (ETEKI, WILLIAM), (RICHARD, IVOR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/01d4cdcc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009